



NEWS RELEASE

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TENNESSEE WHEAT PRODUCTION UP 27 PERCENT FROM 2005

NASHVILLE, May 12, 2006 - Tennessee's 2006 winter wheat production is forecast at 10.6 million bushels, up 27 percent from 2005, according to a recent survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office. The State's average yield is forecast at a record tying 56 bushels per acre, unchanged from a year earlier. Tennessee farmers seeded 300,000 acres last fall, 60,000 more than the previous year and the first acreage increase since 2000. Wheat producers expect to harvest 190,000 acres for grain, 40,000 more than a year ago. The remaining 110,000 acres were used as a cover crop or will be harvested for hay or silage.

To recap the season to date, winter wheat planting was underway by the last week of September with over a quarter of the crop sown by October 16. By the end of the month, farmers had two-thirds of the acreage seeded with a little over a fourth emerged, despite dry conditions. Through November 27, virtually all the winter wheat was sown, with 85 percent emerged. Currently, the winter wheat crop is rated in mostly good-to-excellent condition. By the week ending May 7, over 90 percent of the State's acreage had headed with development nearly a week ahead of last year and normal.

Winter Wheat: Tennessee, Surrounding States, and U.S., May 1, 2006 with Comparisons¹

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	160	300	52.0	54.0	8,320	16,200
Georgia	140	130	52.0	45.0	7,280	5,850
Kentucky	300	310	68.0	68.0	20,400	21,080
Mississippi	65	70	50.0	55.0	3,250	3,850
Missouri	540	870	54.0	53.0	29,160	46,110
North Carolina	435	440	57.0	48.0	24,795	21,120
TENNESSEE	150	190	56.0	56.0	8,400	10,640
Virginia	160	170	63.0	56.0	10,080	9,520
United States	33,794	31,177	44.4	42.4	1,499,129	1,322,831

¹ 2006 forecast, 2005 final.

MAY 1 HAY STOCKS DOWN 28 PERCENT

Hay stocks on Tennessee farms totaled 742,000 tons on May 1, down 28 percent from last year. Hay supplies were short to adequate going into the winter months as a result of a relatively dry growing season. Many livestock producers were forced to feed hay sooner than normal in the fall and early winter due to the lack of available grazing from pastures. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2005 - May 1, 2006, totaled 2.88 million tons, 9 percent lower than the 2004 disappearance of 3.17 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

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